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HORSEBACK RIDING

MOUNT ROGERS

National Recreation Area



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CATALOGING PREP.

Jefferson
National Forest

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WELCOME RIDERS!

The Mount Rogers National Recreation Area offers outstanding opportunities for horseback riding. Horses are welcome on more than 150 miles of multiple-use trails including Iron Mountain, New River, Virginia Creeper and the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail, a 68-mile track connecting Elk Garden to VA. Hwy. 94. Plans call for it to eventually traverse the entire National Recreation Area from Damascus to the New River.

The National Recreation Area offers three campgrounds that welcome equestrians, horses, and trailers. These include **Fox Creek**, on VA Route 603 between Troutdale and Konnarock, **Hussy Mountain**, on FS Road 14 near Speedwell, and **Raven Cliff Horse Camp**, located about four miles east of the community of Cripple Creek. All have parking, hitching rails, and chemical toilets. **You must provide drinking water, but water for horses is available.** There are no showers, but campers at Fox Creek may shower at Grindstone Campground for a fee of \$2 per vehicle.



**EVERY TIME A
FOREST FIRE STRIKES
YOU GET BURNED!**

A FEW REMINDERS

1. Always hobble horses or tie them to a hitchline or picket line. **NEVER** tie them to live trees, even for a few minutes.
2. Let's keep our water clean! Camp and tether horses at least 100 feet from streams or springs. Wash bodies and dishes well away from streams and springs.
3. Always stay on the trail. **Cutting across switchbacks is ILLEGAL.** Taking shortcuts through meadows will quickly destroy the beauty you came to enjoy.
4. Equestrians may use nearly every trail on the National Recreation Area including those in wildernesses. (Wilderness trails are usually more primitive than oth-

SCALE: 1" = 4 Miles

This Map Is For General Location Only!
Scale And Trail Locations Are Approximate

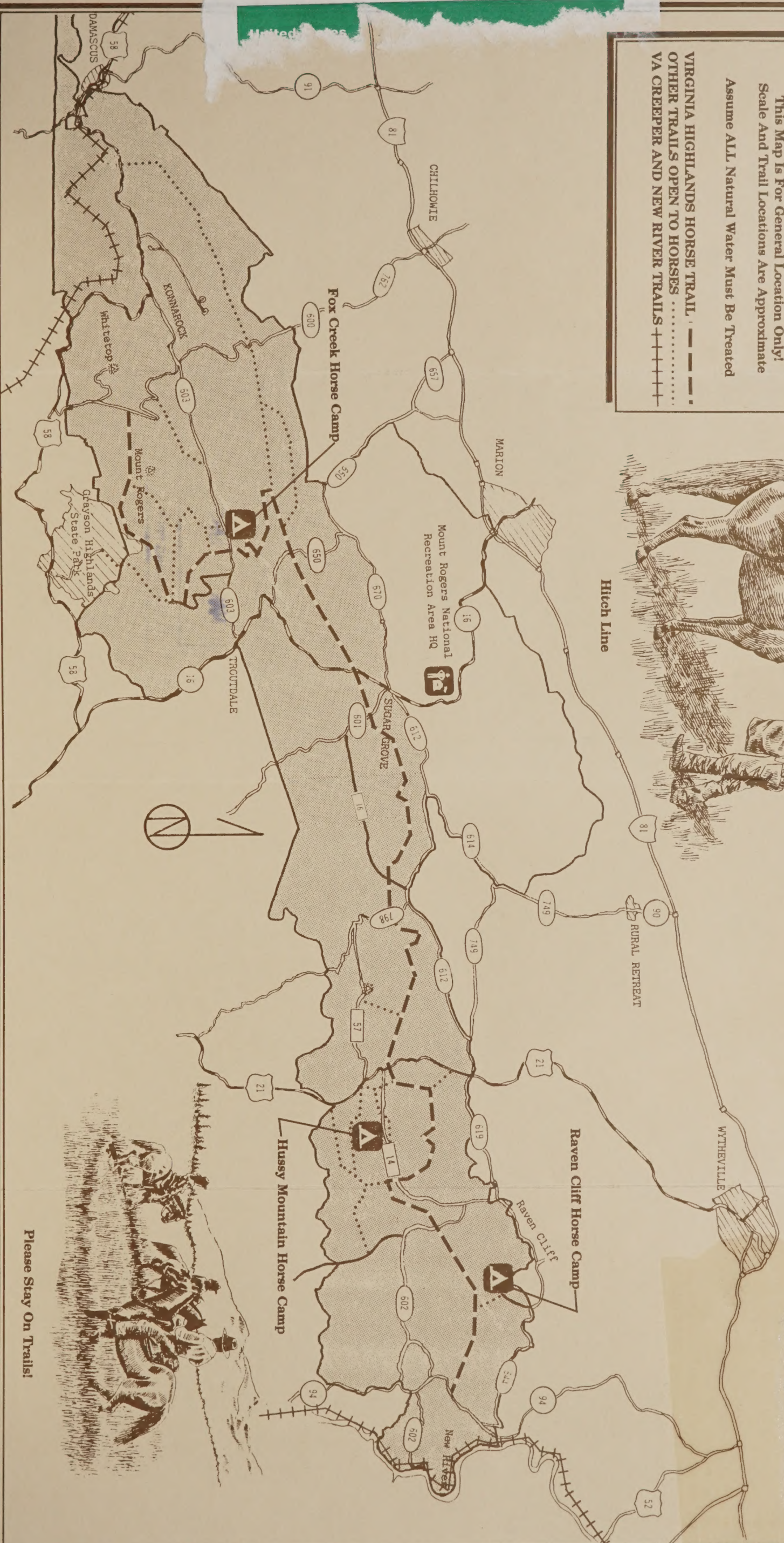
Assume ALL Natural Water Must Be Treated

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS HORSE TRAIL : — — — — —
OTHER TRAILS OPEN TO HORSES :
VA CREEPER AND NEW RIVER TRAILS : + + + + +



Hitch Line

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Please Stay On Trails!

er trails. Often there are no signs or blazes to guide you.) The major exception is that the Appalachian National Scenic Trail is reserved for hikers only. A few other trails off limits to horses are clearly signed.

5. PACK IT IN--PACK IT OUT: If you packed it in full, you can certainly pack it out empty! This goes for cigarette packs and butts also. Did you know that a cigarette filter takes more than 10 years to decompose?

6. When it has been unusually rainy, avoid using certain trails that you know have problems with mud or that may be fragile. Use hard-packed forest roads and trails instead where available.

7. Most maintenance work on trails is done by volunteers, folks just like you who enjoy riding, hiking, or bicycling. If you'd like to have better trails, volunteer! There's no finer way to maintain and improve the good image of horseback riders than pitching in with trail maintenance. You'll also meet a lot of other nice horseback riders just like you. For more information on how to "Adopt A Trail" contact the address on this brochure.

8. Always practice "No Trace" camping. Build only small campfires, use a stove for cooking, and clean up after yourself.

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS HORSE TRAIL

The trail is blazed with orange paint and orange plastic diamonds.

SECTION 1 (VA 94 TO US ROUTE 21)

Mile 0.0--The trail begins on VA Route 94 near Ivanhoe, crosses a short section of private land, then climbs to Chestnut Knob at **Mile 2.0**. Continue along the ridge to tri-county corner. **Mile 3.6--**Side trail to Raven Cliff Horse Camp. **Mile 6.6--**Cross VA Route 602. **Mile 8.0--**Cross Francis Mill Creek. Climb the hill to the divide on FS Road 14. Hussy Mountain Horse Camp is 1 mile to the left on FS Road 14. **Mile 8.4--**Climb the hill to Horse Heaven. Follow along the ridge and down hill to FS Road 14. **Mile 11.8--**Turn right on FS Road 14 and follow it to US Route 21 at **Mile 12.3**. Turn right and follow US Route 21 for 0.2 mile.

SECTION 2 (US 21 To Sugar Hollow Pond)

Turn left on the horse trail along the West Fork of Dry Run. **Mile 12.5--**Follow the trail along West Fork and then cross Jones Creek and Kinser Creek. **Mile 20.5--**Cross Harvel Creek, then VA Route 798. Trail contours to FS Road 16 at **Mile 25.5**. Trail contours to Sugar Hollow Pond, ending at **Mile 35.0**.

SECTION 3: (Sugar Hollow Pond To VA 16)

Trail follows narrow, rocky blazed path to VA Route 601. Turn left at **Mile 36.0**. Trail branches off VA Route 601 about 100 yards to right to reach VA Route 16 at Raccoon Branch Campground at **Mile 40.0**.

SECTION 4: (VA 16 To Hurricane Campground)
Mile 42.5--Follow Raccoon Branch to its headwaters, then bear left. **Mile 44.6**--Cross Appalachian Trail, go down the hill to VA Route 650 at **Mile 46.6**, turn left, then right at **Mile 46.7** onto paved FS Road 84.

SECTION 5: (Hurricane To Fox Creek Horse Camp)

This section is not a designated horse trail, but is included to connect the east end of the trail with the west end and Fox Creek Horse Camp.

Mile 47.0--Head up graveled FS Road 84. Turn left onto FS Road 828 at **Mile 51.0**. At the top of Iron Mountain, **Mile 52.0**, turn left onto yellow-blazed Iron Mountain Trail. Follow it to orange-blazed trail at **Mile 55.0**. Leave the Iron Mt. Trail and descend to VA Route 741 at **Mile 55.5**. Turn right at VA Route 603 and Fox Creek Horse Camp at **Mile 56.0**.

SECTION 6: (Fox Creek to Elk Garden)

This is a continuation of the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail.

Cross VA Route 603 and follow orange blazes to the Scales area between Pine and Stone Mountains, **Mile 58.5**. Continue to follow the orange blazes from the Scales along an old railroad grade that skirts Grayson Highlands State Park. **Mile 61.2**--Follow railroad grade into Fraser fir forest. Continue on connecting trails along the slope of Mount Rogers to the open fields of Briar Ridge. **Mile 64.2**--Cross fields and follow grade to Deep Gap, **Mile 65.2**. Please note that picnicking, or camping is prohibited at the old Deep Gap Shelter site due to rehabilitation efforts. Continue on the grade to Elk Garden Gap and VA Route 600 at **Mile 67.2**.

For more information, please contact:

**Mount Rogers
National Recreation Area
Route 1, Box 303
Marion, VA 24354
(703)783-5196**

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